metro wknd
April 12-14, 2019
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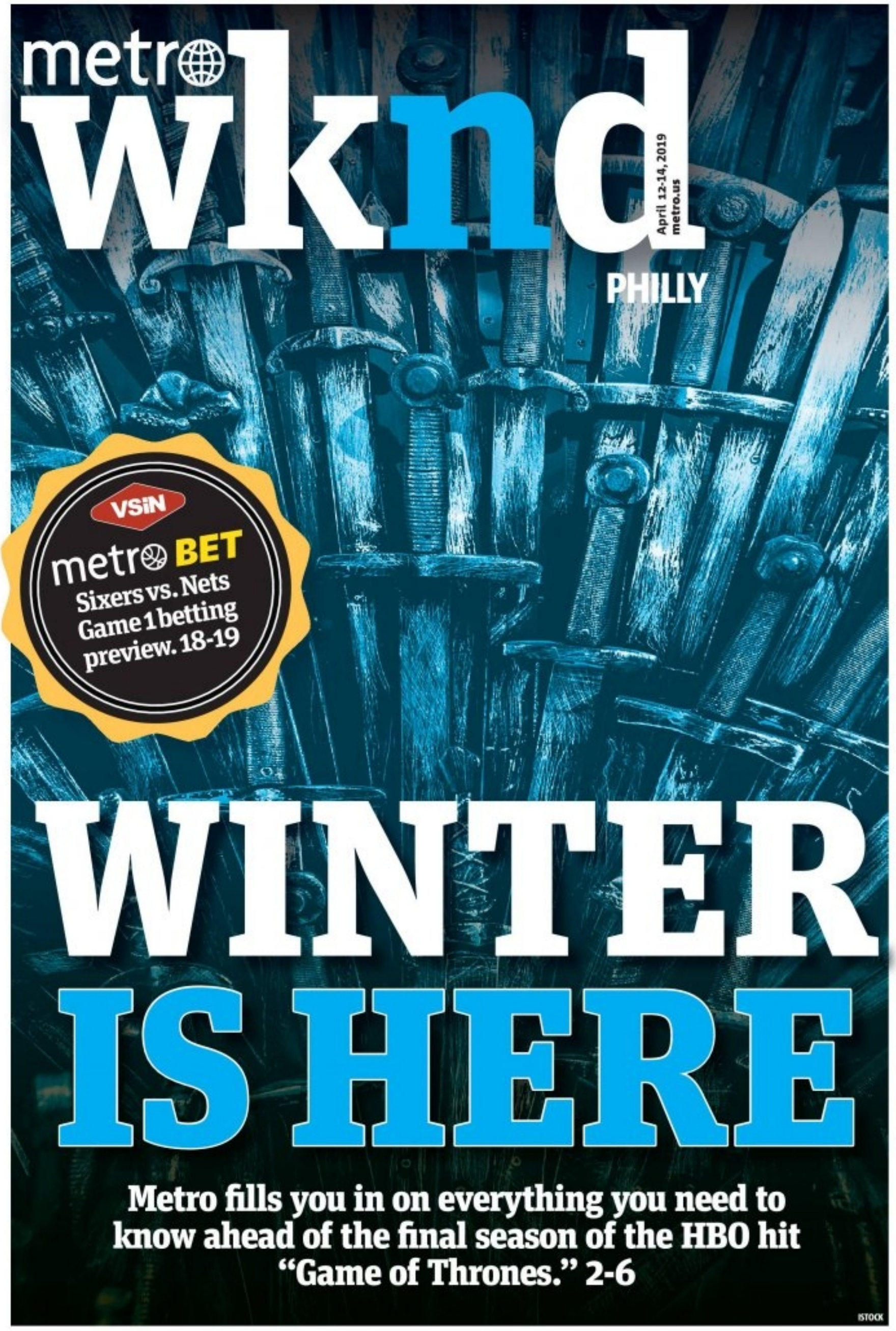

VSiN
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Sixers vs. Nets
Game 1 betting
preview. 18-19

WINTER IS HERE

Metro fills you in on everything you need to know ahead of the final season of the HBO hit "Game of Thrones." 2-6

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FINAL BATTLE

LIVING VS. THE ARMY OF THE DEAD

Metro examines participating sides of the last season's epic encounter.

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THE WALL

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NIGHT KING

WHITE WALKERS

ARMY OF THE DEAD

1 DRAGON
• VISERION

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11
WEEKS OF NIGHT SHOOTS WERE NECESSARY TO FILM THE FINAL BATTLE.

THE BATTLE DOESN'T HAVE JUST ONE FOCUS, BUT RATHER INTERCUTS BETWEEN MULTIPLE CHARACTERS INVOLVED IN THEIR OWN SURVIVAL STORYLINES.

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HOUSES & CHARACTERS

2 DRAGONS
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• RHAEGAL

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JON SNOW
TYRION LANNISTER
GREY WORM
SANSA STARK
JAIME LANNISTER
SIR JORAH MORMONT
ARYA STARK
BRIENNE OF TARTH
GENDRY BARATHEON
BRAN STARK
SAMWELL TARLY

WIDOW'S WATCH

WHITE HARBOR

IRON ISLANDS

IT WILL BE POSSIBLY **ONE OF THE LONGEST BATTLE SEQUENCES IN CINEMA**. THE CLOSEST EXAMPLE IN TERMS OF LENGTH IS THE 40-MINUTE FACE-OFF IN **THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS.**

THE EYRIE

750
PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE BATTLE DURING THE SHOOTING.

HOUSES & CHARACTERS

CERSEI LANNISTER
THE MOUNTAIN
EURON GREYJOY
QYBURN

10K
MEN
THE GOLDEN COMPANY

HARRENHAL

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Why is 'GoT' so successful & addictive?

Metro investigates the phenomenon.

DMITRY BELYAEV MWN

What started as a niche epic fantasy book series by novelist and short story writer George R. R. Martin has now become a global cultural phenomenon thanks to HBO's "Game of Thrones" series. According to statistics, season seven's finale was viewed by more than 16.5 million people around the world, and that number is expected to grow for the last six episodes scheduled to premiere April 14.

"GoT" became such phenomenon because it broke the mold for what can successfully be done on television. Even more than other shows focused on antiheroes, it created morally ambiguous, flawed, and complicated characters the likes of which we had not seen before. Experts confirmed that thanks to its medieval fantasy setting and shocking sex and brutal violence scenes, "Game of Thrones" became a perfect, escapist antidote of too much modern world filled with political correctness and sensitivity.

"I think we're living in a time where more and more people are getting tired of being lectured about how sensitive we need to be and how we need to watch every other word that comes out of our mouths because someone might be 'triggered,' traumatized or feel oppressed. In 'Game of Thrones' we can see a large cast of characters that can all be equally brutal, duplicitous and amoral and we can get a cathartic thrill out of their bad behavior. Because in the 'GoT' world of dragons and monsters they are far enough removed from our reality," Barna Donovan, professor of film and media studies at St. Peter's University, explained to Metro.

So, the HBO creation combines fantasy, familiar elements of political intrigue and realistic human conflict. On the one hand, the story has rich, colorful, large-scale world building. It transports viewers to a far away, exotic, adventure-filled alternate universe.

"But, on the other hand, the stories are much more realistic and relatable to our real world than the fantasies we have seen in various J.R.R. Tolkien adaptations. "Game of Thrones" is not ano-

Emilia Clarke as Daenerys Targaryen with Kit Harington as Jon Snow in Game of Thrones Season 8. | HBO

Jon Snow (Kit Harington) meets a Dragon. | HBO

"Part of GoT's success is derived from the comfort offered by a retro-fantasy entertainment offered to a rapidly changing world."

Phillip Freeman, MD, psychoanalyst, psychiatrist, and theatre/film consultant.

$15m

is the budget for each episode in season 8, according to reports.

ther simple quest fantasy about finding treasures or dealing with magical rings and fighting monsters. This show deals with conflicts between nations, social classes, races, as well as drama of people scheming and maneuvering for political power. "Game of Thrones" is both exotic and otherworldly, while at the same time very familiar and relevant to our own world's conflicts and problems," Donovan added.

Apart from providing a perfect way to escape reality and many other factors that make the series so successful, it is a plot heavy adventure show. Thus, the wish to find out "what happens" drives the desire to view.

"Also, the expense of its production makes it very lavish and visually impressive. Its story isn't tied to a particular region of the world which makes it more widely accessible," Amanda D. Lotz, professor of digital media and communication at Queensland University of Technology, stated. "Its violence may detract some, but it otherwise offers dastardly villains, compelling heroes, and many different characters for audiences to root for."

However, it's still hard to say if "Game of Thrones" might be the greatest show of all time. According to experts, we have seen series over the years that are superb in so many different ways that it becomes difficult to create a fair comparison.

"But 'GoT' is likely an important first chapter in a story about significant change in international distribution and a new stage of internationalization of the television industry," Lotz said.

Yet, in the future it could be considered a "classic" and be referenced for a very long time as one of the best examples of what is being referred to as "peak TV" in its rich.

"This is the kind of show that fans will enjoy watching again and new fans will keep discovering. With its very human stories about power, family, politics, and intrigue, "Game of Thrones" deals with universal themes that will stay relevant for many generations, much in the same way that classic literature survives because it always speaks to the human condition," Donovan concluded.

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"GoT" season 8 premieres this Sunday COURTESY OF HBO

It's showtime

Top Philly spots are celebrating the season premiere of "Game of Thrones." MOLLY GIVEN

This Sunday marks one of the biggest days of the year (at least if you're a "GoT" fan) with the return of the wildly popular HBO show, "Game of Thrones." The highly anticipated final season has been on everyone's mind for the past year, and in honor of the return of winter, top Philly spots are hosting watch parties, offering specials and more. Here is where you should go to celebrate the season premiere of "Game of Thrones" in Philadelphia.

The Irish Pub
The Irish Pub on 20th and Walnut is hosting a watch party to celebrate the new season of "Game of Thrones." With a large projector screen and plenty of seating, this Rittenhouse hotspot is the perfect place to watch the new season, especially for groups. The Pub is also offering specials throughout the night that even Joffrey would approve of including $3 Rolling Rock pints, $3 Miller High Life cans, $5 Merlot and Chardonnay and $5 Ommegang Witte. Showtime is at 8 p.m., drink specials will run from 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
April 14, 7 p.m., Irish Pub, 2007 Walnut St., irishpubphilly.com

Le Viet
Head to Le Viet this Sunday to watch "GoT" on the big screen, indulge in a buffet and sip on enticing drink specials. Le Viet will be closing the venue for the event and will also be offering $5 house wine and $5 specialty cocktails. Guests can also snack on savory treats from the buffet including french fries, spring rolls, chicken wings, beef watercress salad, chicken stir-fry vegetables and much more. The event is 21 and over, anyone who wishes to attend must bring a valid ID with them, space is limited- you can RSVP on Meetup.
April 14, 8 p.m.-10 p.m., Le Viet, 1019 S 11th St, $30, levietrestaurant.com

City Tap House
City Tap House is starting its "GoT" celebration early this Sunday with its Brunch of Thrones quizzo extravaganza. Quizzo-Master Sir Johnny Goodtimes will be hosting the event and challenging guests to intense rounds of quizzo involving everything from Kings Landing to The Wall. Prizes will be given to first place, second place, best team name and best costume- so be sure to dress the part. Ommegang will also be at the event as well with its enticing line-up of "GoT" inspired beers. Seating is limited and reservations are required for all quizzo participants.
April 14, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., City Tap House, 119 N. 18th St., citytap.com

Jet Wine Bar
After watching the epic season premiere of "GoT" this Sunday, head to Jet Wine Bar on Monday and Tuesday to indulge in the "Game of Thrones" Wine Tasting. All of the enticing wines were sourced from the real-world locations of Westeros and Essos, so you know it's the real deal. Guests will get to sample five different wines and also learn more about the selections and the locations they come from. Light snacks will be served as well. This event is part of Jet Wine Bar's monthly Time Traveler Tastings series which is designed for explorers and adventurers among wine lovers who are interested in learning the stories behind unique wines.
April 15-16, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Jet Wine Bar, 1525 South St., $40, jetwinebar.com

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WEEK 10: 4/11-4/14

3 Fun things to do in Atlantic City this weekend

Check out what's happening down at the shore this weekend.

MOLLY GIVEN

Philadelphia has a lot to offer, but so does the beautiful coastal town of Atlantic City. The city has grown exponentially over the past few years and is no longer just a casino or beach destination, it's a place to escape and indulge in fun activities and escapades.

Lifehouse

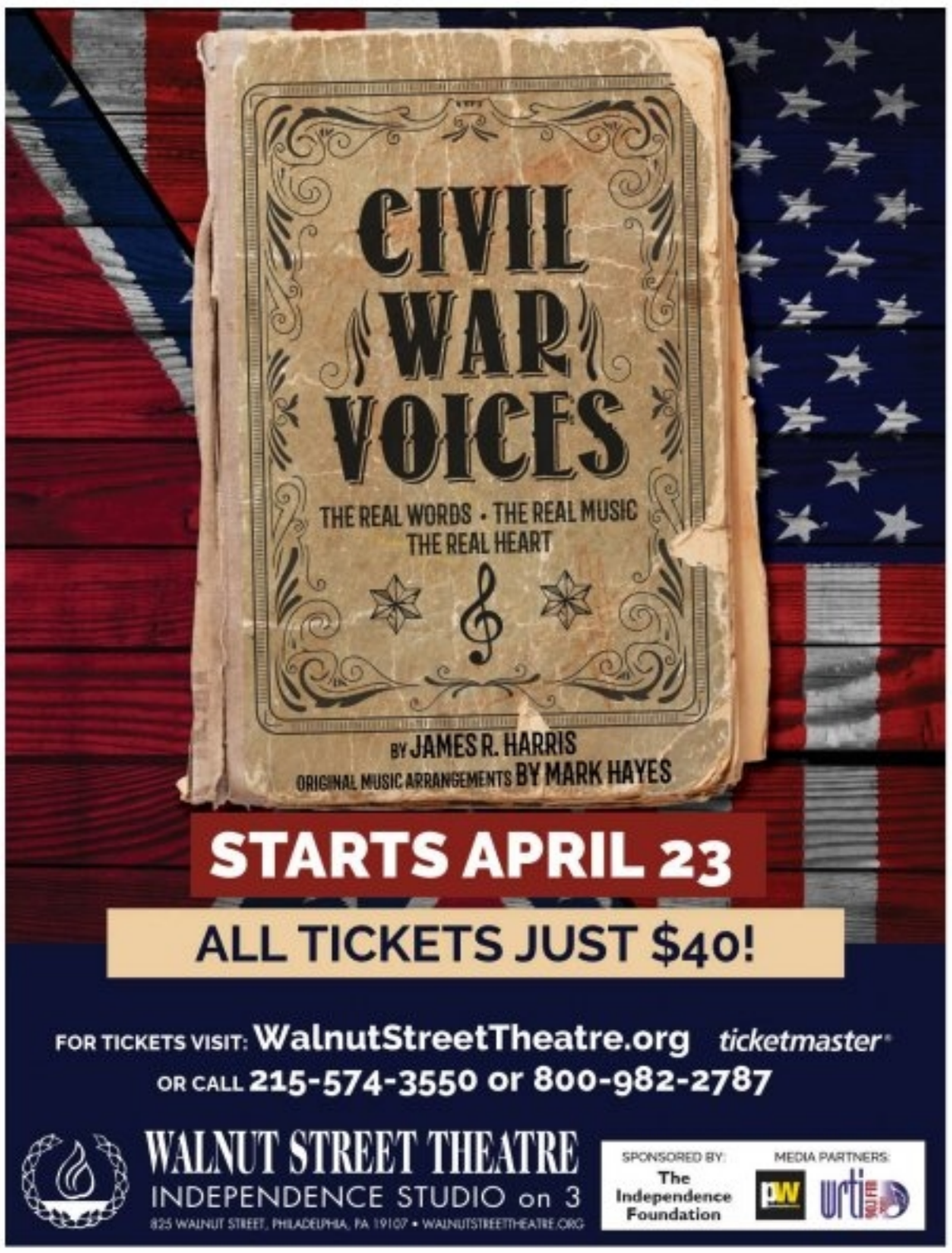
The Los Angeles-based band is bringing their talents to the East Coast and will be in Atlantic City for one night only this weekend. Lifehouse first made it big over a decade ago with their smash hit song "You and Me," and the band has amassed a large and loyal fan base over the years. Lifehouse will be playing some of their most addictive hits including "Hanging by a Moment," "Halfway Gone," "Between the Raindrops," "All In," "First Time" and more. *April 12, 8 p.m., Hard Rock Casino & Hotel, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, prices vary, hardrockhotels.com*

The Fitness Expo

The Fitness Expo is one of South Jersey's largest open-to-the-public health events and it will be at the Showboat this year for two days only. This exciting event's mission is to educate and inspire guests to lead a healthier lifestyle. There will be over 150 vendors offering different services such as free health screenings, yoga classes, cooking demonstrations, interactive physical activities, obstacle courses, special prizes and much more. There will also be a variety of free fitness classes and demonstrations, music, face painting and more fun and healthy happenings. Children under the age of 14 will be admitted for free. *April 13-14, times vary, Showboat Hotel, 801 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, showboathotelac.com*

Steel Pier Easter Egg Hunt

Head to the historic Steel Pier to partake in a fun and family-friendly Easter egg hunt this Palm Sunday. Guests can partake in the hunt while also taking advantage of the other attractions Steel Pier has to offer including rides, amusement park games, helicopter rides, entertainment, food and drinks and much more. Next weekend, be sure to head to Steel Pier again on Saturday, April 20, to join in on a pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny himself. *April 14, 1-3 p.m., Steel Pier, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey, steelpier.com*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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this weekend? We've got you covered.

GOING OUT

'80s Karaoke

Head to The Bourse this weekend to attend their totally tubular '80s-themed karaoke night. Select vendors will be getting guests into the '80s spirit with food and drink specials including "Punky Brewster" beer and a "Whiskey Business" cocktail. Guests are encouraged to dress up (themed clothes will be provided) and get up and serenade the crowd with some classic hits. Prizes will be given out to the best performers. **April 12, 6-8 p.m., The Bourse, 111 S. Independence Mall East, free, theboursephilly.com**

ARTS & CULTURE

Mind, Body, Bubbly

Philly PR Girl's second annual health fair extravaganza is this weekend and the main goal is to promote healthy living for your body and your soul. Guests will get to experience some of the most unique and top wellness vendors from the Philadelphia area all offering products, services, discounts and much more for self-care. MBB is also offering a special VIP hour this year as well where 40 guests will do an all-levels workout led by Top Fitness trainers Sam Williams and Geno Aloi. **April 13, noon-2 p.m., Location 215, 990 Spring Garden St., $29-$45, phillyprgirl.com**

Marvel Preview Party

The Franklin Institute's latest exhibit, "Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes," is opening soon, but if you want an exclusive preview you can head to the FI this Friday to get a sneak peek. There will be a panel discussion with creative talent from Marvel Comics including Editor-in-Chief C.B. Cebulski, photo opportunities with official Marvel costumed characters, aerial performances, music, a cash bar, early access to the exhibition and more. **April 12, 6-10 p.m., Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., $35-$45, fi.edu**

Sakura Sunday 2019

The Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival is back for another year and this all-day celebration is bigger than ever. The festival will feature a sake garden with delicious beer and cocktails, a Samurai of the Year contest, an anime and cosplay area, a Taiko drum and dance troupe, a pet parade and so much more. All of these exciting happenings take place under gorgeous cherry blossom trees. **April 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fairmount Park Horticulture Center, 100 North Horticultural Dr., free-$15, phila.gov**

COMEDY

Whiz City Comedy Fest

Head to South Street this Friday and Saturday to check out over 70 comedians at different establishments all putting on free shows for your enjoyment. There will be plenty of laughter filling up the street's businesses from Milkboy to Tattooed Mom. The event will cap off with two headlining shows each night at South Street Cinema. The cinema will also be screening" Kentucky Fried Movie," "Miami Connection," and "The Muppet Movie" throughout the weekend. **April 12-13, various times, South Street, various locations, facebook.com/WhizCityComedy/**

FOOD & DRINKS

Yards Real Ale

COMEDY

GETTY

Chelsea Handler

The comedian, late-night host and actress is hitting the stage at the new Met Philadelphia with her stand-up "Sit-Down Comedy Tour." The best part? Every ticket bought for the tour will come with a copy of Handler's new book, "Life Will Be the Death of Me." The books will be distributed on the day of the show. **April 12, 6:30 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $69-$114, themetphilly.com**

Invitational

Head to Yards Brewery this Sunday to indulge in 60 cask-conditioned beers from some of the best and boldest breweries in the area. The Real Ale Invitational's mission is to spotlight cask ales, all unfiltered and unpasteurized for optimal taste. Tickets include unlimited samples, live music and access to delicious, festival-friendly bites. **April 14 noon-4 p.m., Yards Brewing Company, 500 Spring Garden St., $65, yardsbrewing.com**

Urban Bourbon Tour

This is the ultimate tour for all booze-loving history buffs located in the City of Brotherly Love. This exciting tour takes guests on a wild ride to locations around the city where crime bosses fought turf battles during Prohibition. Guests will also sample enticing artisanal cocktails and indulgent hors d'oeuvres from The Twisted Tail, The Pineville and The Ranstead Room. If you can't get tickets for this month's tour, you're in luck — another exciting tour will be taking place in May as well. **April 13, 3:30 p.m., The Twisted Tail, 509 S. 2nd St., $95, distilledleadership.com**

2019 Philly Showcase of Wine, Beer & Cheese

Head to the Pennsylvania Convention Center this weekend to indulge in enticing selections of wine, beer, cheese and other specialty foods. Howie Roseman, general manager of the Super Bowl LII champion Philadelphia Eagles, will be honored at this delicious showcase. Coach Doug Pederson and wife Jeannie and legendary former Eagles coach Dick Vermeil will also be in attendance.
April 12, 5-10 p.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., $60-$100, paconvention.com

FAMILY

Easter Egg Hunt

Head to Penn Treaty Park this weekend for a fun-filled, family-friendly Easter egg hunt. No need to register or reserve a spot, just show up before game time at 11 a.m. and get ready to be on the hunt. There will be prizes and much more in store.
April 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Penn Treaty Park, 1199 N. Delaware Ave., free, penntreatypark.org
MOLLY GIVEN

We are a Spirit, we have a Soul and we live in a Body. Be nice to all three!
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April 12

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Check out the latest in the indie pop culture world including comic books, games, film, TV and more. **April 12, 5-10 p.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., $64-$106**

Fun things to do in Philly this month

14

Sakura Sunday 2019

April 14

Suburu's outdoor Cherry Blossom Festival will feature a sake garden,a Samurai of the Year contest and much more **April 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Faimount Park Horiculture Center, 100 N Horticultural Dr.,**

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kodak Black
April 19

The popular rapper is bringing his talents to the City of Brotherly Love for one night only. **April 19, 8 p.m.-11 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $39-$79**

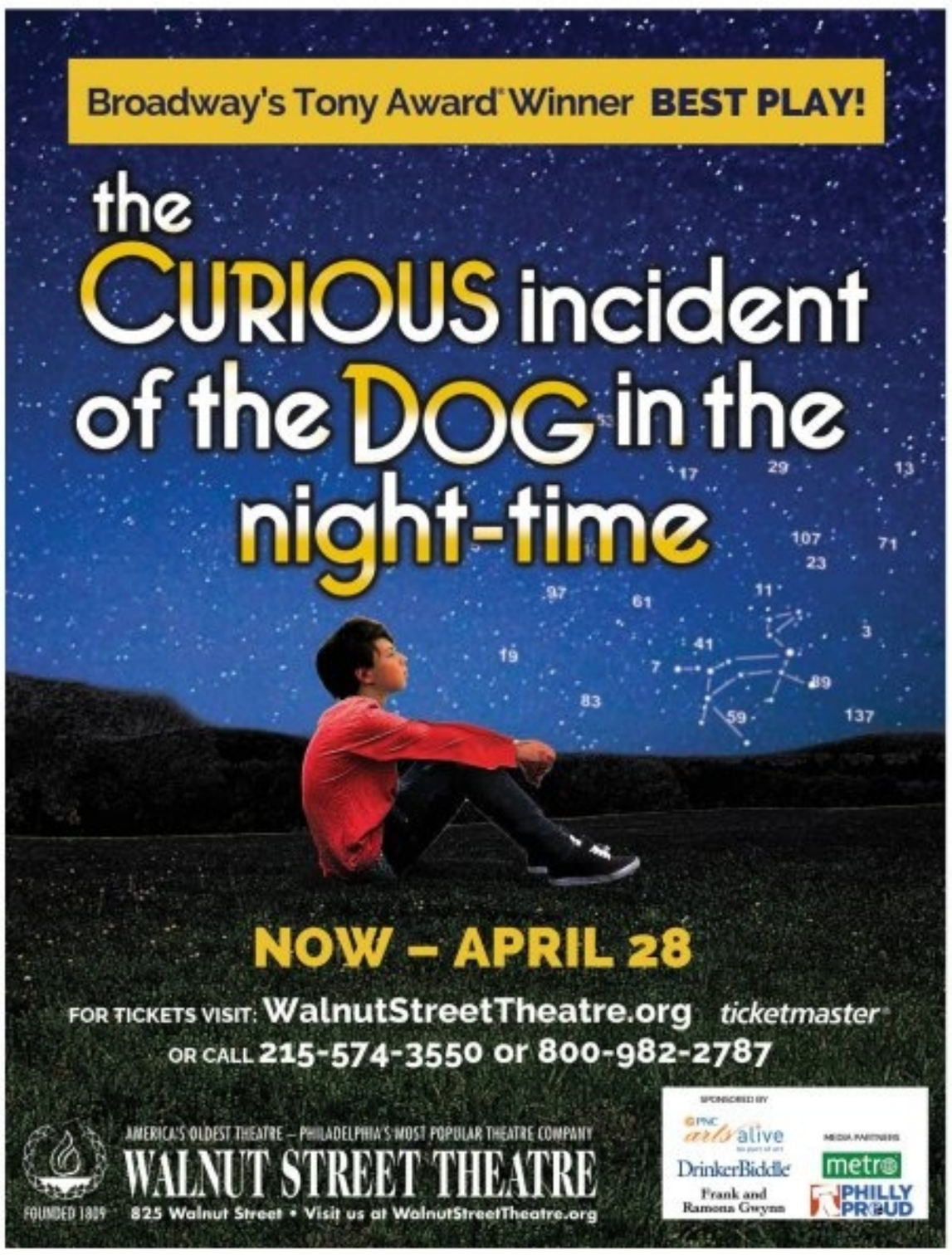
20

"The Office" Trivia Tour
April 20

Test your "Office" knowledge during the "That's What She Said Office Trivia Tour" extravaganza. **April 20, 4 p.m.-10 p.m., JJ Bootleggers, 35 S 2nd St., $20**

Cher
April 20

The iconic songstress is bringing her talents to the City of Brotherly Love this month. **April 20, 8 p.m.-11 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $47-$500**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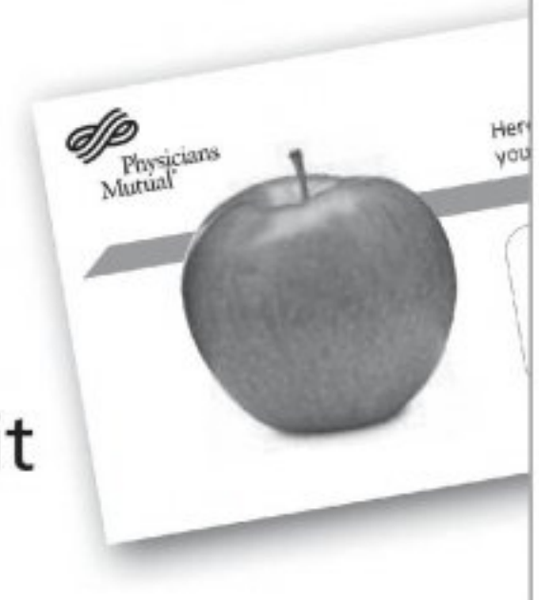

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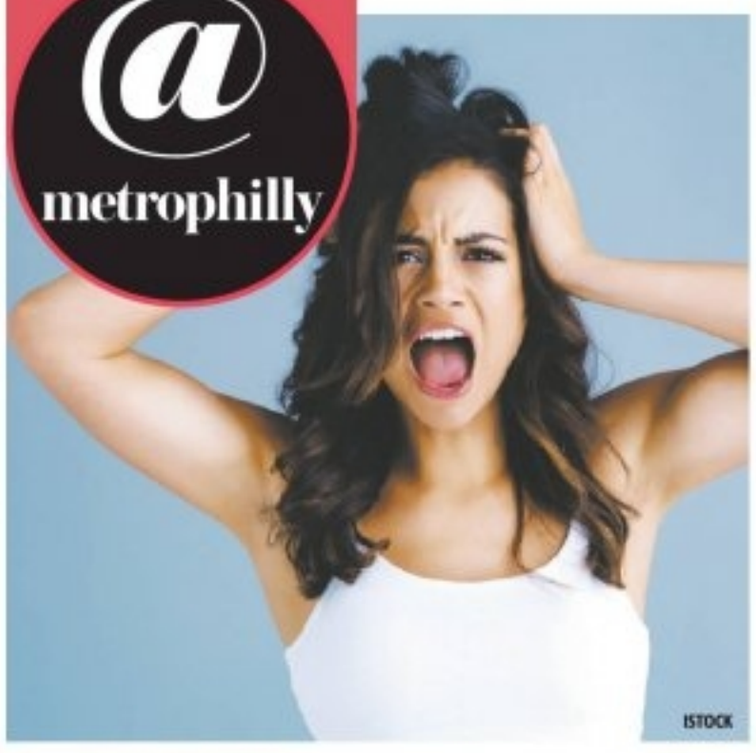

READER WRITE-INS:

PARKING AT A PREMIUM

While coming down my Mom's block I saw a space in front of her house. Since several cars have been hit recently I pulled over to let a car approaching from the opposite direction pass.

They proceeded to pull into my Mom's driveway to make a U-turn.

When I realized they were trying to get my coveted space, I pulled around before they could back up and took my space.

They then pulled up next to me. I started to ignore since I don't want trouble, but they sat there so I rolled down my window.

Driver then said to me, "That's what I get from being patient." I was like, WHAT???

Then my response was, Do you even live in this neighborhood???? This is my house, where I live.

Now waste more gas driving around looking for another available space, because this space was not.

By Sheryl L.J., Metro NY Reader

the GRUMBLE

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Changes at home will be difficult if you let too many people get involved in what's going on. A secretive but focused approach to a move or personal change is favored.

Taurus Live and learn. What you learn through conversation or from travel will leave you open to suggestions and willing to make a change that will encourage new opportunities.

Gemini You don't have to take on other people's responsibilities. Don't leave yourself open to being taken for granted. Make it clear what you think and what you are willing to do.

Cancer Spend more time on your own projects and strive to enhance your life. A reliable partnership will support the change you want to see happen.

Leo Don't set yourself up for disappointment. Walk away from anyone trying to coerce you into something you shouldn't do. Put your energy into personal gains, not into helping others get ahead.

Virgo If you participate in events that have a purpose or meaning for you, you will meet someone who will have an impact on the way you think and which changes you want to make.

Libra Be careful what you sign up for. Find out exactly what's entailed before you get involved in someone else's plans. Personal physical improvements and prioritizing a romantic relationship are encouraged.

Scorpio Socialize more. Reach out to people who enrich your life. Take the road less traveled and explore what's available. Spiritual and emotional encounters will lead to new beginnings.

Sagittarius Positive change will happen if you focus more on your needs and less on the demands that others are putting on you. An emotional and physical adjustment will do you good.

Capricorn If you get together with someone from your past, you will be offered information that will help you make positive changes. Starting something new will be rejuvenating.

Aquarius Tidy up any unfinished business so that you can move on to new and exciting pastimes. Adjustments to your personal space will encourage self-improvement and a healthier lifestyle.

Pisces Set yourself up for stardom. Step into the spotlight and share your thoughts. Good things will happen if you follow your heart and put your energy into something that counts. EUGENIA LAST

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Assange busted in London, now faces US extradition

The WikiLeaks founder was taken from Ecuador's embassy.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is seen in a police van after he was arrested by British police outside the Ecuadorian embassy in London on Thursday. REUTERS

British police dragged WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange out of Ecuador's embassy on Thursday after his seven-year asylum was revoked, paving the way for his extradition to the United States for one of the biggest-ever leaks of classified information.

Hours after the frail-looking Assange, with white hair and a long beard, was carried head-first by at least seven men out of the London embassy and into a waiting police van, U.S. officials announced he had been charged with conspiracy to commit computer intrusion.

As he was being hauled out of the embassy in a dramatic scene shortly after, the Australian-born Assange was heard shouting, "This is unlawful, I'm not leaving."

British Prime Minister Theresa May hailed the news in parliament, to cheers and cries of "Hear, hear!" from lawmakers.

But in Washington, President Donald Trump, who in 2016 said "I love WikiLeaks" after it released emails that U.S. authorities have said were hacked by Russia to harm his election opponent Hillary Clinton, told reporters he had no opinion on the charges against Assange.

"I know nothing about WikiLeaks. It's not my thing," Trump said.

Assange gave a thumbs-up in handcuffs as he was taken from a police station to a London court, where he pronounced himself not guilty of failing to surrender in 2012. District Judge Michael Snow called Assange a "narcissist" and convicted him of skipping bail. Sentencing will be at a later date.

Police said they arrested Assange, 47, after being invited into the embassy following the Ecuadorean government's withdrawal of asylum. Assange was carried out of the building carrying a copy of Gore Vidal's "History of the National Security State," which he continued reading in court.

In Washington, the U.S. Justice Department said Assange was charged with conspiring with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to gain access to a government computer as part of a 2010 leak by WikiLeaks of hundreds of thousands of U.S. military reports about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and American diplomatic communications.

The indictment was made secretly last year and unsealed on Thursday. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted, with legal experts saying more charges were possible. REUTERS

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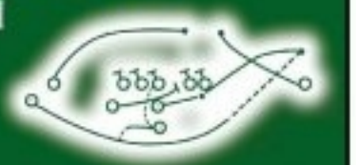

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Tenants of oldest US diamond district get eviction notices

Jewelers Row tenants must vacate by May 31.

A view of the 2014 Holiday Lights on Jewelers Row. GETTY IMAGES

Several tenants of the nation's oldest diamond district have received eviction notices as a luxury home developer plans to build a high-rise condo tower on the block.

Some tenants of Philadelphia's Jewelers Row said they were told in the notices that arrived this week that they must vacate by May 31.

Despite its historic status, Jewelers Row isn't listed in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. That enabled developer Toll Brothers to get construction permits and demolition approval in 2016.

After resistance from jewelers and preservationists, the builder modified the design several times.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported Toll completed its final required review by the city's design board in April 2018. Two court challenges over the project have failed.

Historical Commission Spokesman Paul Chrystie tells the Inquirer a nomination for it to become a historic district won't be heard until August.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov orders state flags lowered to honor three Marines killed

WIRE IMAGE

Flags at the Pennsylvania Capitol and other state buildings will fly at half-staff to honor three U.S. Marines who have ties to the state and were killed in the line of duty.

Gov. Tom Wolf on Thursday ordered the flags lowered through sunset Sunday. Two of the Marines were killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan on Monday. The parents of Staff Sgt. Christopher Slutman live in the York area, and 31-year-old Sgt. Benjamin Hines was from the York area.

The third Marine, a pilot, died March 30 in a helicopter crash during training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona. He was identified as Maj. Matthew Wiegand of Ambler.

In a statement, Wolf says gratitude should be shown every day to soldiers like Wiegand, Hines and Slutman.

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Sixers begin title quest with 1st-round matchup against Brooklyn

The 76ers are looking for their first NBA title since 1983.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

No more days of load management, no more playing down to opponents, no more tough stretches.

It's finally playoff time for the Philadelphia 76ers, the Eastern Conference's No. 3 seed with its sights firmly fixed on the Eastern Conference Finals and beyond after a disappointing exit last postseason against the Boston Celtics.

The 'new kids on the block' tag has quickly disappeared for a franchise that has rebuilt itself from a joke in the NBA to one of its most powerful teams. I think the rise to power centered around a "p" word that rhymes with "obsess."

Regardless, the 76ers are heading into a first-round matchup with the surprising Brooklyn Nets, fresh off their first winning season since 2013-14.

The emergence of All-Star point guard D'Angelo Russell, along with key contributions from Sixth Man of the Year Award favorite Spencer Dinwiddie has helped fuel Brooklyn to the playoffs.

While the Nets might not have the flashiest roster, head coach Kenny Atkinson has done a commendable job getting the most out of what he has. Most of all, he has a team that is willing to lay it all out on the line for him.

Joel Embiid. GETTY IMAGES

The 76ers have a far more compelling roster, especially when you look at the starting five. That unit is believed by many to be the best in the league, which leads many to believe that the Nets should be nothing more than a primer for the Sixers as they have some of the more prominent Eastern Conference powers on their radar.

Expect Joel Embiid to have a monster series considering his season against the Nets, averaging 30 points and 14.3 rebounds per game.

Philadelphia, however, hasn't had the easiest time with the Nets this season, splitting a four-game series while allowing 121 points per game. Russell has averaged 27.3 points and 7.3 assists over those four games while Dinwiddie put up a career-high 39 back in December against the Sixers.

On the playoff stage, the Sixers are still the more skilled team but will have to figure out a way to deal with Brooklyn's guards.

Should they do so, they'll have no problem getting through to the Eastern Conference semi-finals.

NETS	76ers
STARTING 5	**STARTING 5**
PG- D'ANGELO RUSSELL	PG- BEN SIMMONS
SG- CARIS LEVERT	SG- JJ REDICK
SF- JOE HARRIS	SF- JIMMY BUTLER
PF- JARED DUDLEY	PF- TOBIAS HARRIS
C- JARETT ALLEN	C- JOEL EMBIID
2018-19 STATS	**2018-19 STATS**
RECORD: 42-40	RECORD: 51-31
POINTS PER GAME: 112.3	POINTS PER GAME: 115.2
REBOUNDS PER GAME: 46.6	REBOUNDS PER GAME: 47.8
FG%: 44.5	FG%: 47.1
3PT%: 35.5	3PT%: 35.9
POINTS ALLOWED: 112.3	POINTS ALLOWED: 112.5

76ERS vs. NETS PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Game 1 at PHL- *Saturday, Apr. 13, 2:30 PM ET (ESPN)*

Game 2 at PHL- *Monday, Apr. 15, 8 PM (TNT)*

Game 3 at BRK- *Thursday, Apr. 18, 8 PM (TNT)*

Game 4 at BRK- *Saturday, Apr. 20, 3 PM (TNT)*

Game 5* at PHL- *Tuesday, Apr. 23, TBD*

Game 6* at BRK- *Thursday, Apr. 25, TBD*

Game 7* at PHL- *Saturday, Apr. 27, TBD*

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Sixers vs. Nets Game 1 betting preview

Expect a healthy Embiid to get Sixers off to strong start.

Harry Mayes is a sports betting expert and a longtime sports radio voice in Philadelphia. Mayes currently hosts a talk radio show on 97.3 ESPN in South Jersey.

GETTY IMAGES

It seems like we've been waiting for the NBA playoffs to begin for over a month now in Philadelphia. The "new look" Sixers lineup is still searching for chemistry and has only played together as a starting five unit of Joel Embiid, Tobias Harris, Ben Simmons, Jimmy Butler and J.J. Redick for 10 games since the final acquisition of Harris in early February. In those games the Sixers are 8-2 SU and 6-4 ATS.

The Sixers split their season series 2-2 SU, 1-3 ATS against Brooklyn, however you have to go inside the numbers to figure out the real reason. Butler did not play in either of the losses and the final game of the season series was the only game where the new starting five was intact: a 13-point SU win as a seven-point favorite.

The Nets will present problems in this series as they have 10 players averaging at least eight-plus points per game and feature the best 3-point shooter in the Association, in Joe Harris at 47.4 percent with five attempts per game.

Brooklyn's overall guard play is really good, including D'Angelo Russell, Spencer Dinwiddie and Caris LeVert. Brooklyn finished the season at 42-40 and plays with a swagger consistent with their borough. Both teams are close to even in several defensive categories when it comes to Opponent's Shooting Percentages as well. On the season, Brooklyn went 45-27 ATS including 25-16 ATS on the road, which is impressive. The Sixers were less than impressive, going 38-44 ATS and only 21-20 at home. However, we must account for the numerous lineup changes throughout the season.

I'm looking for a breakout game in the series opener, featuring a well-rested Embiid. The Sixers know they have not looked sharp down the stretch, but if they want to make a deep run, they know they cannot afford to let the Nets hang around and allow this series to extend too far. I'm trusting they will get off to a proper start in this one.

The Pick: SIXERS minus the points

TWEET OF THE DAY

SKIP SHANNON UNDISPUTED
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"LeBron James could've went to Philadelphia, and not only had a good chance to get to the Finals, but with Joel Embiid, I think he had a chance to win the Finals and more championships." — @Chris_Broussard

Best Bets

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Philadelphia Phillies at Miami Marlins

A trip to Florida will be just what the Phillies need as they look to bounce back from back-to-back bad losses to the Nationals when they take on the Marlins in Miami on Friday night. The Phillies have won each of their last four Game 1s of a series and they are a perfect 5-0 in their last five following an off day. The Marlins, on the other hand, have lost 20 of their last 26 Game 1s of a series and they are an awful 18-40 in their last 58 versus an NL East division rival. Throw in the fact that the Phillies are 7-3 in the last head-to-head meetings between the two teams and we're laying the price with them here to get the win in Miami on Friday night.

THE PICK:
Phillies -140

Sports betting 101:
How to bet on basketball

VSiN

The NBA playoffs have finally arrived and the hometown Sixers are likely to play deep into May, if not June.

Some of you may be betting on basketball for the first time, and we at MetroBet are here to help. Here is a beginner's guide to betting on hoops.

* For your first time, your best bet is to bet on the spread of the game. Here is an example of a typical NBA basketball spread:
Brooklyn +8.5 (-109)
Philadelphia -8.5 (–109)

* The -8.5 indicates that Philadelphia is favored to win by 8.5 points or more. If you bet $109 on the Sixers to win by 8.5 points or more, you would win $100. If you bet on Brooklyn, the underdog here, you would need them to win the game outright or lose by 8.5 points or fewer to win.

* Totals or "over-unders" is another popular basketball bet. Essentially, you bet on whether or not you think the two teams will combine to score more or less than the total the sportsbook puts out. For instance, in the last game between the Nets and Sixers, the over-under was set at 223. The final score was 76ers 123, Nets 110 — which, combined, was 233. If you bet the over in this high-scoring affair, you went home a winner. MATT BURKE

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ANTHONY GARGANO

Anthony Gargano is a sports radio host on @97.5TheFanatic in Philadelphia and on FOX Sports Radio.

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NBA PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY

SIXERS -8 NETS

The Sixers begin their second post-process playoff run with some questions — most notably with the health of all-world center Joel Embiid.

But let's rid all the fear, please. Yes, the Nets played the Sixers tough during the regular season, but two of those games came early in the year, when the Sixers featured Robert Covington, Dario Saric and Markelle Fultz. Another matchup came in December — early in Jimmy Butler's reign with the team and before the acquisition of Tobias Harris.

In the only matchup with the Nets with their current roster, the Sixers rolled by 13. I know there is worry about this squad being together for only 10 games and the bench appears dangerously thin. But this fab five should be enough for a sweat-free first round.

GETTY IMAGES

In Game 1, it's all about Embiid — if he plays, I'd lay the 8. If not, the line will dip and I'd be careful, even though I still expect the Sixers to win.

Series: Sixers -2500

You can't lay this ridiculous price but you might want to throw an exact outcome and take the Sixers in 5.

RAPTORS -9 MAGIC

Toronto will flex in Game 1 against Orlando. Love the Raps by double digits and take a look at Raps' team total over. The Magic are defensively challenged.

Series: Raptors -5000

Raps in a sweep.

WARRIORS -13 CLIPPERS

Champs can name their score in games they are interested in. I don't fully trust them laying such a big number. I could see a big lead get whittled down by the final buzzer. Stay away.

Series: Warriors -10000

Champs in a sweep.

NHL PLAYOFFS

The shocker of shockers came the other night when Columbus rallied from a three-goal deficit to shock the Lightning. Underdogs can rule in the NHL and we saw that in this one and with St. Louis over the Peg and Dallas over Nashville as well.

Price is too fat for Tampa in Game 2 but if you can stomach it, take the Lightning. They can reel off four straight.

I'll take the Isles to go up 2-0 over the Penguins and Vegas to even its series with San Jose. St. Louis is dangerous in this series with the Jets — I may come back with the Blues again.

On Saturday, I'll grab the Over between Toronto and Boston and Calgary over Colorado. If I were a Preds fan, I'd be worried — Dallas could win this thing in 6 after stealing Game 1.

THE MASTERS

With the tournament underway, Jon Rahm looks like he can make a statement this weekend.

I'll fade Tiger and play on both Justins — Rose and Thomas — in matchup plays.

Watch the weather in Augusta. It's supposed to turn and this could be a major advantage for the Euros.

Sports on TV Highlights

2:30 pm (Saturday)	**NBA Basketball** Brooklyn Nets vs. Philadelphia 76ers	ESPN
7:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Philadelphia Phillies vs. Miami Marlins	NBC
7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Tampa Bay Lightning	CNBC
7:30 pm	**NHL Hockey** Pittsburgh Penguins vs. New York Islanders	NBC Sports Network
9:30 pm	**NHL Hockey** St. Louis Blues vs. Winnipeg Jets	CNBC
10:30 pm	**NHL Hockey** Vegas Golden Knights vs. San Jose Sharks	NBC Sports Network

NBA playoffs betting previews

The NBA postseason tips off this Saturday with a full slate of action. Here is a look at Spurs versus Nuggets as well as a couple of quick picks.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS AT DENVER NUGGETS (-6)

The Denver Nuggets have one of the best home-court advantages in the NBA, and they should overwhelm the visiting San Antonio Spurs in Game 1 of their quarterfinal series on Saturday night.

Denver was 34-7 straight-up at the Pepsi Center this year and 25-16 against the spread. Their average point differential was plus 10.5.

San Antonio was only 16-25 on the road this season, with an average differential of minus 3.5 points per game. The Nuggets hold the advantage down low,

GETTY IMAGES

as they were fourth in rebound differential on the year (plus 320), while the Spurs were 11th (plus 67).

Nikola Jokic and company won both games at home against the Spurs this season, including an easy 113-85 victory on April 3. They covered a 4.5-point spread.

The play: Nuggets spread

BEST OF THE REST
(picks in bold)

Los Angeles Clippers at Golden State Warriors (-13)

Orlando Magic at **Toronto Raptors** (-9)

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

NBA

BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS -7

MLB

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES -150 VS. MIAMI MARLINS +135

NHL

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS -120 VS. NEW YORK ISLANDERS +100

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS +220 VS. TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING –240

ST. LOUIS BLUES +105 VS. WINNIPEG JETS -125

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS +110 VS. SAN JOSE SHARKS -130

Metro Philadelphia's 3 stars of the week

ZACH EFLIN

While it hasn't been a great week for the Phillies (let's erase that 15-1 loss from Wednesday night, shall we?), they've received a strong start from one of the members on the bottom half of their rotation.

Zach Eflin went seven strong innings on Sunday against the Twins, allowing just one run on six hits to pick up his second victory of the year.

Through two starts, he owns a 0.75 ERA in 12 innings of work.

With question marks abound within the Phillies' rotation behind Aaron Nola, who has been struggling as well, a strong showing from Eflin could go a long way. Especially if he can sustain it throughout 2019.

GREG MONROE

As a late-season acquisition, the veteran center Greg Monroe was brought on by the 76ers to provide some depth off the bench at center behind Joel Embiid.

Monroe has faded to irrelevance this season with brief stints with the Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics.

In a combined 40 games, he was averaging less than five points per game.

With the Sixers resting their starters, the 28-year-old has run with his chance at some playing time ahead of the postseason, averaging 16.0 points and 5.5 rebounds in the last two games of the season.

That's a promising sign for the Sixers' bench as the playoffs start.

THE FLYERS

Wait a second, the Flyers?

The team whose season ended last weekend after putting on their worst display in over a decade?

Yes, those Flyers.

While things are looking grim around the organization, better times are just around the corner.

At the NHL Draft Lottery, the Flyers got the No. 11 pick. It's not necessarily a good one, but they'll have a chance to draft a solid, young forward to add to their talent pool.

In the meantime, the search for a new head coach has already begun with experienced names available like Alain Vigneault, Darryl Sutter, Dan Bylsma, and Guy Boucher.

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SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FISCAL YEAR 2020 CAPITAL BUDGET

I. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will conduct public hearings in the SEPTA Board Room at SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Mezzanine Level, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, at 11:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., on Monday, April 29, 2019. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the Authority's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Budget and Fiscal Years 2020-2031 Capital Program and the projects contained therein for which financial assistance is being sought. The total amount of federal and state funds to be received in Fiscal Year 2020 will be determined at the completion of the federal and state budget processes. SEPTA proposes to submit to its funding agencies a program of projects for funding consideration. SEPTA's final federal Section 5307 Program of Projects will be made available on SEPTA's website, **http://septa.org/strategic-plan/reports.html;** through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and in conjunction with the DVRPC's Public Involvement Process for the TIP.

II. At the hearings, SEPTA will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to the social, economic and environmental aspects of the projects. Interested persons may submit orally, or in writing, evidence and recommendations. Speakers for the morning and evening sessions must register by 12:00 PM and 5:30 PM, respectively, on the day of the Public Hearings.

III. Persons wishing to file written comments may forward them to the Director of Capital Budget and Grant Development, 9th Floor, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3780. Comments must be received by May 3, 2019, so that they may be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner. Comments may also be sent via email to **capbudget@septa.org.**

IV. Individuals in need of a sign language interpreter should contact the Director of the Capital Budget and Grant Development Department at the address listed above by April 11, 2019.

V. An audio version of the public hearing notice and summary will be available through the Associated Services for the Blind at its website: **www.asb.org** and at the office of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1500 Spring Garden Street, Suite 230, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

VI. On or about March 29, 2019, members of the public may obtain a copy of the proposed Capital Budget and Twelve Year Capital Program at SEPTA's website: **www.septa.org** or by requesting, in writing, a copy from the Director of the Capital Budget and Grant Development Department at the address listed above.

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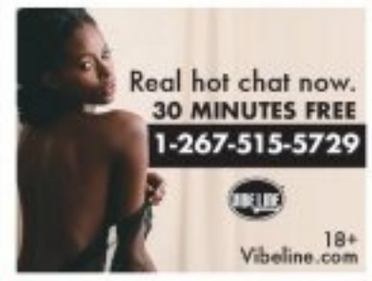

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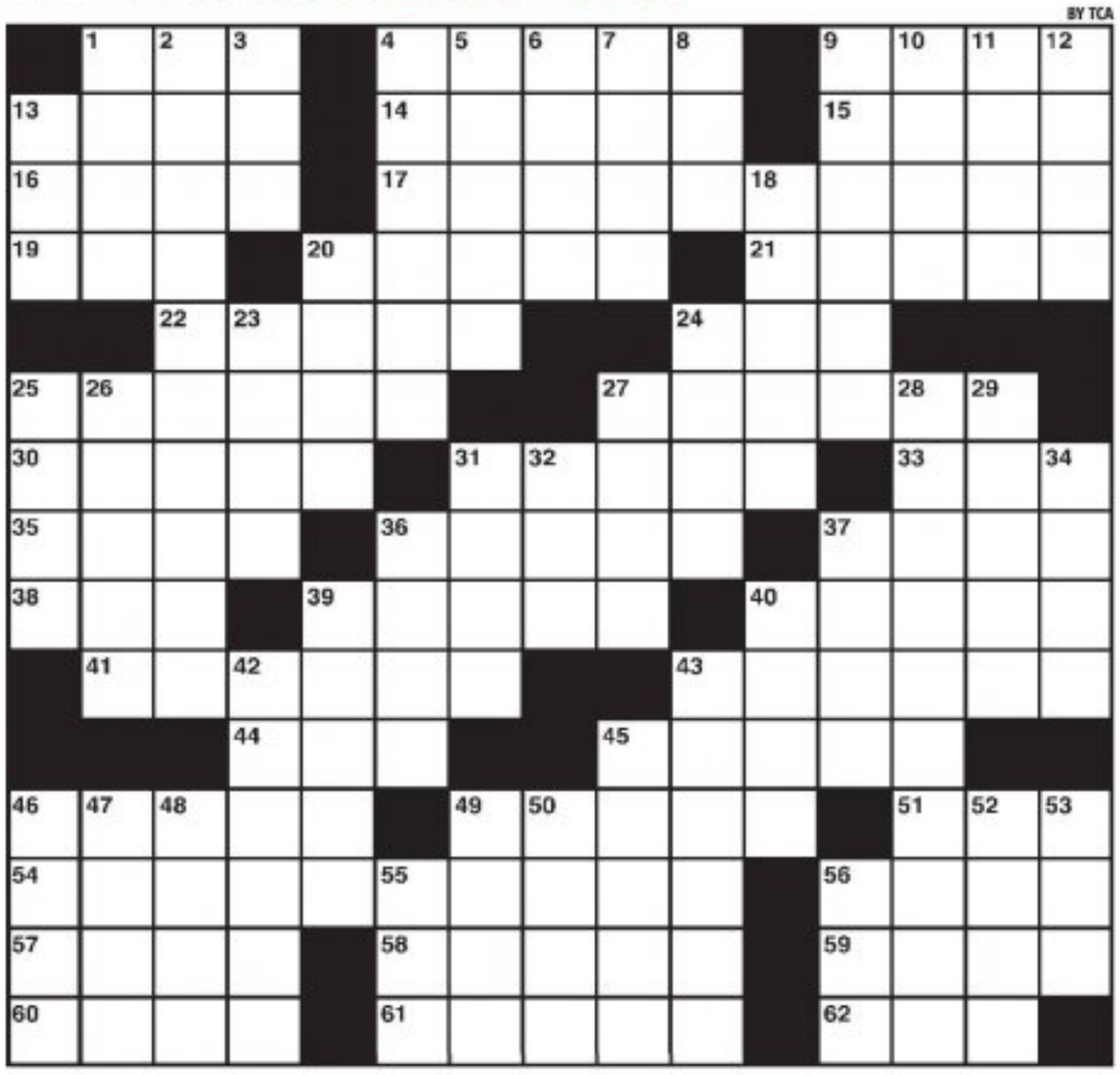

Check your answers at metro.us/games

ACROSS

1 __ down; make a note of
4 Syrup flavor
9 Failure
13 Asian desert
14 Reserved
15 __ up; form a row
16 Ready, willing and __
17 Disgust; aversion
19 Fraternity letter
20 Gave a job to
21 External
22 Magnificent
24 Took first place
25 Biblical book
27 Samples
30 "__ of Old Smokey"
31 Report card mark
33 Big kahuna, for short
35 Cool one's heels
36 Hollandaise, for one
37 __ at; taunt
38 Give it __; make an attempt
39 __ mignon
40 Game of chance
41 "You __, you lose"
43 Exhaled audibly
44 Deli purchase
45 Buoyant wood
46 Means of communication
49 Follow stealthily
51 Eggy drink
54 Spreadable sausage
56 "__ in the Life"; Beatles song
57 Go __; review
58 Shed crocodile tears
59 Bit of bacteria
60 Declare untrue
61 Famous; eminent
62 Sullivan & others

DOWN

1 Steve of Apple Inc.
2 Duty
3 Man's accessory
4 Singer Carey
5 On the ball
6 Leo XIII or Pius X
7 Deafening
8 File drawer, perhaps
9 Display pompously
10 Dryer residue
11 All at __; suddenly
12 Look through a keyhole
13 Opening
18 Lasso loop
20 Stack
23 Hilarious person
24 Get one's feet wet
25 Neighbor of Nebraska
26 Pantyhose dings
27 Diplomacy
28 Fair; impartial
29 Military attack
31 Storm wind
32 Regret
34 Nudge
36 Clothing label info
37 Irish dances
39 Entrance hall
40 Cheat out of
42 Cantankerous
43 Like canned peanuts, usually
45 Keep a cooking turkey moist
46 Trudge
47 Bee colony
48 Hotpoint appliance
49 Japanese wrestling form
50 Horse's canter
52 Rowers' items
53 School building
55 Actress Ming-Na __
56 Grow old

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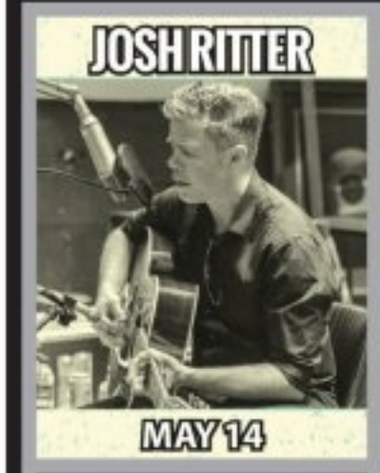

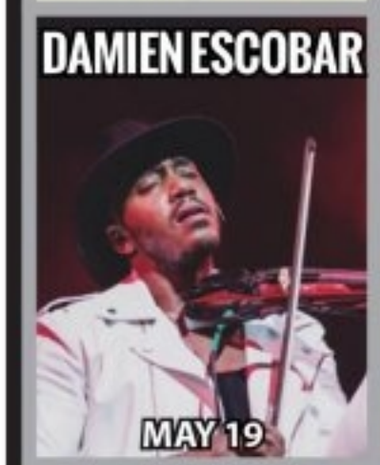

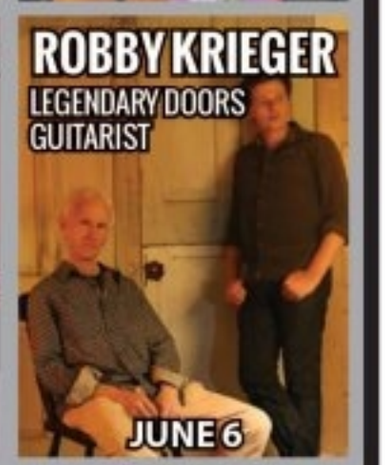

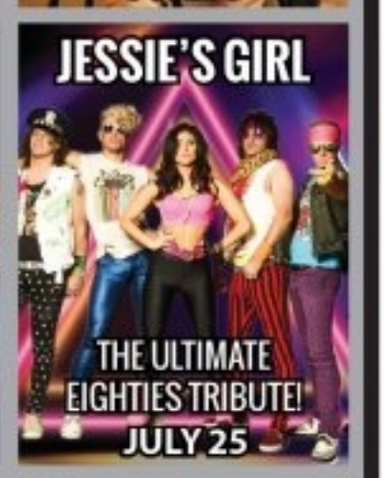

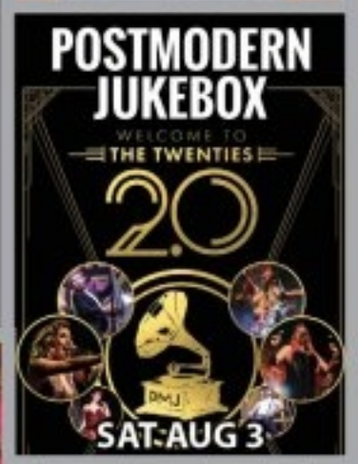

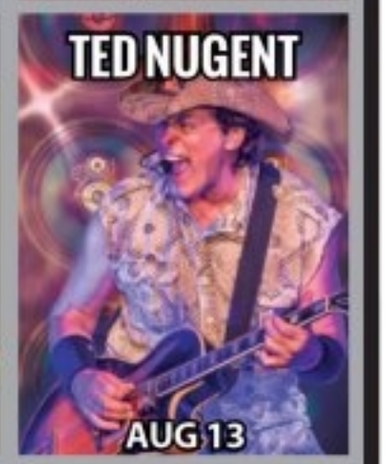

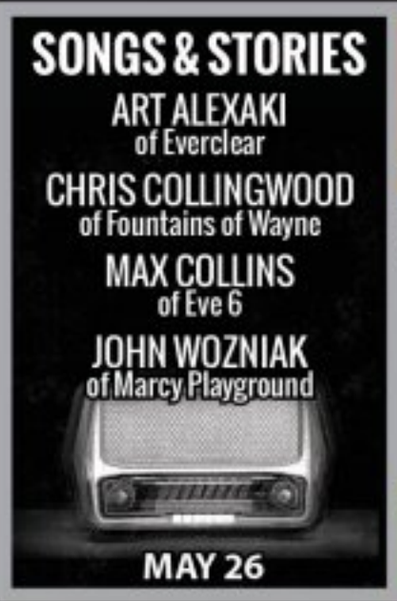

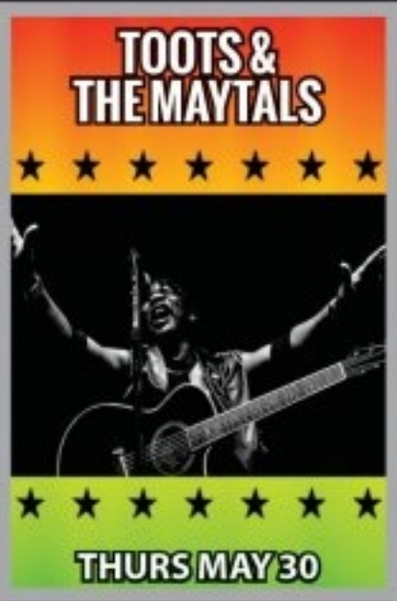

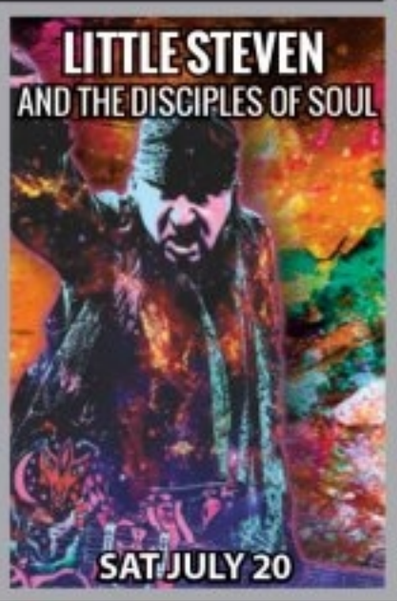

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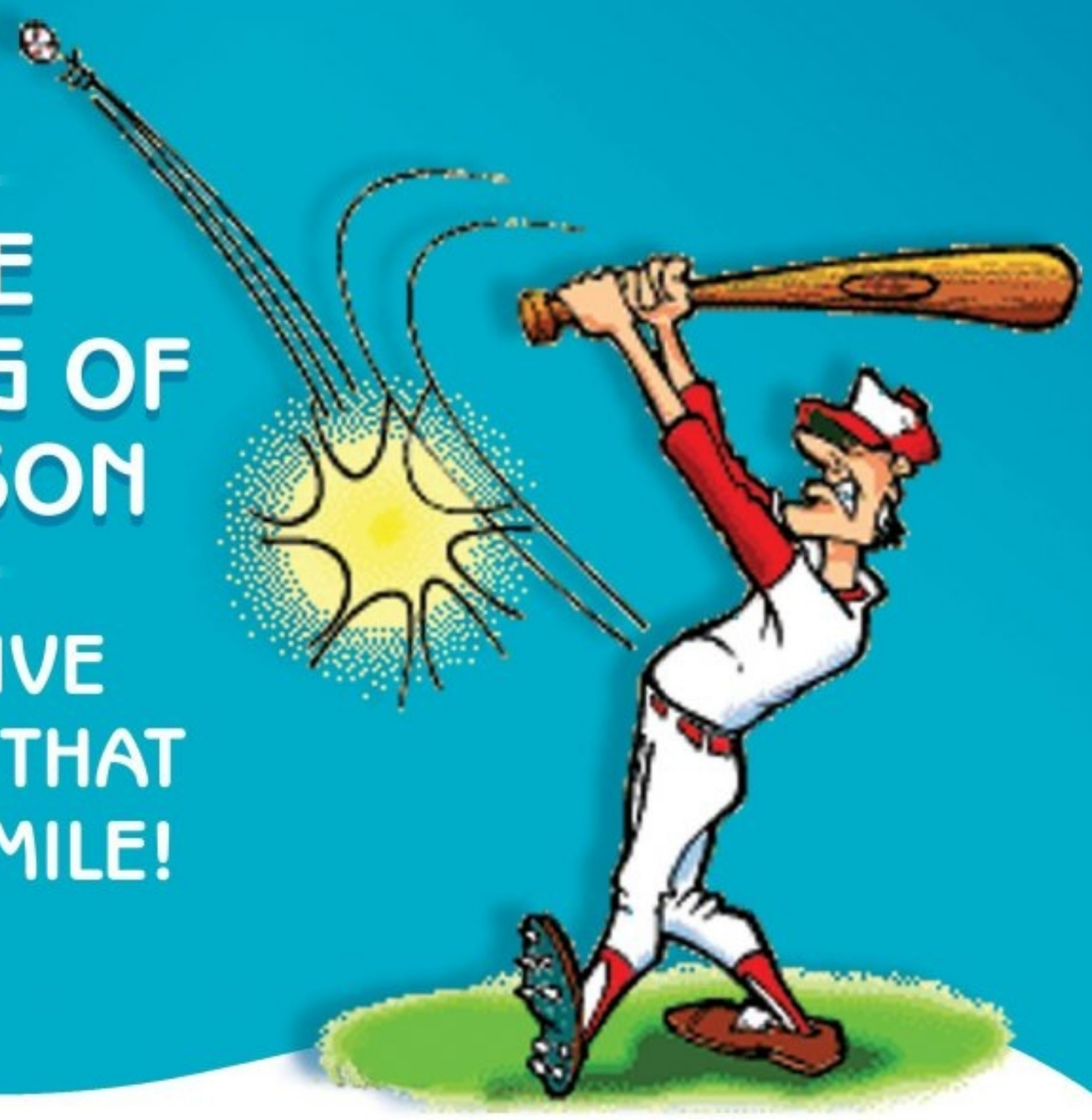

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